

Magnolia Presbyterian Church **The UpLook**

January 2023

Year End Giving postmark your giving or deliver by Dec 31 for your 2022 taxes
New Year's Day: Epiphany & Communion Sunday, January 1, 2023
Blessing Bag Mini Work Party on January 8th after service
Rooted 2023 begins Sunday, January 22, 2023, with an initial gathering



Minister's Musings

Don't be conformed to the patterns of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds so that you can figure out what is God's will; what is good and pleasing and mature. Romans 12:2

appy New Year! How are you with New Year's resolutions? Do you choose the standard ones of exercise more, eat less, drink less, get finances squared away, etc.? Or maybe your resolutions are a little less tangible. As I was considering what to write about for the first newsletter of the new year, I realized that our Stewardship Theme for 2023, "Think Differently", might be a good resolution. While this theme was specifically chosen in regards to giving, I wonder what would happen in our lives if we expanded this idea of thinking differently, and intentionally applied this principle to every aspect of our lives. What would happen if we saw any potential

problem as a path to "think differently" or "think outside the box"? Richard Rohr (whom I quote a lot) says,

"We do not think ourselves into new ways of living, we live ourselves into new ways of thinking." Interesting...I think there's a lot of truth to that. We all have a set of constructs about people, ideologies, money, religious beliefs, and societal norms to name a few, and I'd venture to say they are pretty set...until something comes along to shake those assumptions. Most of the time the thing that shakes us is something or someone who challenges us.

The pandemic was something recently that certainly challenged us and we all started living differently as a result. We lived differently mainly though because we didn't have much choice. Now that things have opened back up, I wonder how much of it has had staying power or have we gone back to the status quo. People, of course, give us another opportunity to examine assumptions. If we dig deep enough, we will most likely discover that we have formed assumptions about an individual or a group of people, usually without much data to back it up.

Sometimes we formulate assumptions about what people say or do without taking time to find out what they are really trying to say or what might be behind their words or actions.

What if instead we paused, took a deep breath, and decided to be open and grant people grace? I know I could use and practice a bit more grace in my life. One thing I do know about people and life in general is that there are always opportunities to practice grace. And so, this year I encourage us to take some time to reflect on some areas in our lives where we might "think differently."

May your year ahead be filled with hope, love, joy, peace, and grace,

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<u>In this Issue:</u>	
Rooted	pg 2
Congregational Meeting	pg 2
Blessing Bags	pg 2
Women's Bible Study	pg 2
Ladies Epiphany Open House	pg 2
Youth Group	pg 2
Children's Sunday School	pg 3
Deacons' & Neighbors' Corne	r pg 3
Coffee Hour & Church Direct.	pg 3
Thanks/Where You Can Help	pg 4
Family Promise	pg 5
Birthdays & Anniversaries	pg 6
Prayer Calendar	pg 6
Events Calendar	pg 7
Session Highlights	pg 8
Stewardship & Membership	pg 9
Meetings & Announcements	pg 10
A Winter Pause	pg 11
Fresh Start Poetry	pg 12

January 2023 Pastor Claire

You Matter!

Experience this truth in...



Rooted Life Groups will begin on <u>Sunday, January 22</u>, with a kick-off event to meet your groups. Consider joining us in this 10-week life-changing experience and connect with God, the church community, and your purpose. Followers of Jesus, old & new, are welcome to join in and begin your Life Group journey. Questions: info & sign-ups at <u>magpres.com/rooted</u>



Join us January 29th at 11:15 am (right after the 10am services) for our annual Congregational Meeting.

Annual Reports will be available to pick up by Sunday January 15 (hard copy on the Welcome table, electronic copy in the weekly Eblast).

Looking forward to seeing you there!

You can help us fill Blessing Bags!



Be a part of our joyous
assembly line right after
the 10am service as we fill
bags with snacks, water,
and hygiene items to give
to people in need as we
encounter them. Also...
if you have any drawstring
backpacks that you can
donate to the effort, that
would be greatly appreciat-

Women's Bible Study resumes Monday, Jan 9th!

Join us on Mondays at 9:30 a.m. in the Church Library (main office building) for Study, Fellowship, and Prayer. We discuss the week's Scripture Lessons from the previous Sunday and unpack them further. If you haven't had a chance to join us previously, please come and join the discussion and fellowship.





Youth Group Resumes Jan 8th! Join us Sunday nights from 6-8 p.m.

Both Middle Schoolers (grades 6-8) and High Schoolers (9-12) welcome.

Meet us in the youth room (enter off Potomac St, through the gate on the left, and use the first door).

Hope to see you there!

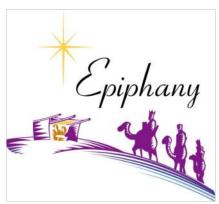
For the Month of January...

January 8: Youth Group Meets

January 15: Youth Group Does NOT Meet

January 22: Youth Group Meets

January 29: Youth Group Meets



To all the
Ladies of
Magnolía Pres...
you are invited
to celebrate
Epiphany on

Friday, Jan. 6th at an Open House at Evelyn Shea's home from 2-6 pm.

6154 Clarendon Court, Riverside, 92506
Stop by any time that afternoon or on your way home from work for fellowship and refreshments.

Please bring an appetizer or treats to share.

And don't forget to invite your friends!

NEWS YOU CAN USE!

CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL for children in grades

Kindergarten through 5th grade is offered In-Person and via Zoom during our 10:00 a.m. worship service. In-person will meet in the Fireside Room at 10:20 a.m. Those attending via Zoom simply sign in to Zoom and use the Meeting ID: 259 885 602 and the Password 7200 to join the fun. Sunday School includes Bible lessons, songs, crafts, and play time.

Our memory verse for January is John 3:16

"God so loved the world that he gave his only Son"

For more advanced Bible scholars, the full verse is:

"God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him won't perish but will have eternal life."





COFFEE TIME is every Sunday right after the 10:00 a.m. worship service. Join us in the Fireside Room for Java and Treats... and stay for the Fellowship and Conversation!

> Please sign up on the kitchen counter on Sunday if you think you can occasionally bring treats, help set up or clean up.

CHURCH DIRECTORY...ONLINE!

View our directory online or via the FREE mobile app. Go to members.InstantChurchDirectory.com & follow the "Sign In" prompts to "Create a login now."



Confirm your email address to sign in. Download the free mobile app at the Apple® App store in iTunes®, Google Play™ store, and the Amazon Fire App Store. Use your email (as listed in our directory) to create your log-in.

Need help or have any questions? Please contact Pastor Paul (paul@magpres.com).

knowledge add self-control; to your selfcontrol add endurance; to your endurance add godliness; to your godliness add brotherly affection; and to your brotherly affection add love. These are the qualities you need, and if you have them in abundance, they will make you active and effective in your knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ." (Good News Translation) Let us be challenged by his teaching.

The new year is traditionally a time for self-reflection, a time to make resolutions. It is a great time to resolve to grow spiritually, and the apostle Peter tells us how to do it in his second letter, versus 5-8. He writes: "...do your best to add goodness to your faith; to your goodness add knowledge; to your knowledge add self-control; to your self
BOY SCOUTS: Be Prepared! That is the Scout motto. Troop 16 was prepared to dissolve after 100 years and merge with Troop 270. However, the parents there at Troop 270 had a change of mind and they will instead join our troop. So Troop 16 will continue into its second century! Beginning Janary 2023, we welcome new Scouts to Magnolia Presbyterian Church. Happy New Year to all! ~Tim Lewis, Scoutmaster

> FAMILY PROMISE: January 2023 will mark the grand opening of the Family Promise of Riverside based here on our own campus! The office will open on January 2nd and will begin serving families. Keep praying & consider how you might be able to lend a hand. Use

the link below to start your online training journey (required of all volunteers--all the cool kids are doing Happy New Year, it!) https://family-promise.coassemble.com/unlock/ Carla Carrasco, Deacon NuQYX18



As your Office Manager celebrates her six-month-aversary, she wants to offer a round of thanks to those who have helped get bulletins and newsletters out by folding, stuffing, and labeling (oh-my!) this Summer and Fall.

D_{ave} King Amanda Schlegel Diana Lewis

Kris Shea

Heather Dickenson Carolyn Raughley

Rosie Quinones Lance Mordue

Linda Bingham

Have we Forgotten Anyone...?

We'd love to have you be part of the crew this Winter and Spring. Just let Adrien know your availability!

WHERE YOU CAN HELP...

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Dear Church Family, The Christian Education Committee is seeking volunteers to teach Sunday School. It can be for one week at a time or more.

Individuals / couples or friends / youth under the age of 18-all are welcome. Contact Christian Education Committee Chair, Heather Dickenson, at <a href="https://hdc.ncbi.nlm.ndm.ndbi.nlm.nd





HOW TO GIVE TO MAGPRES

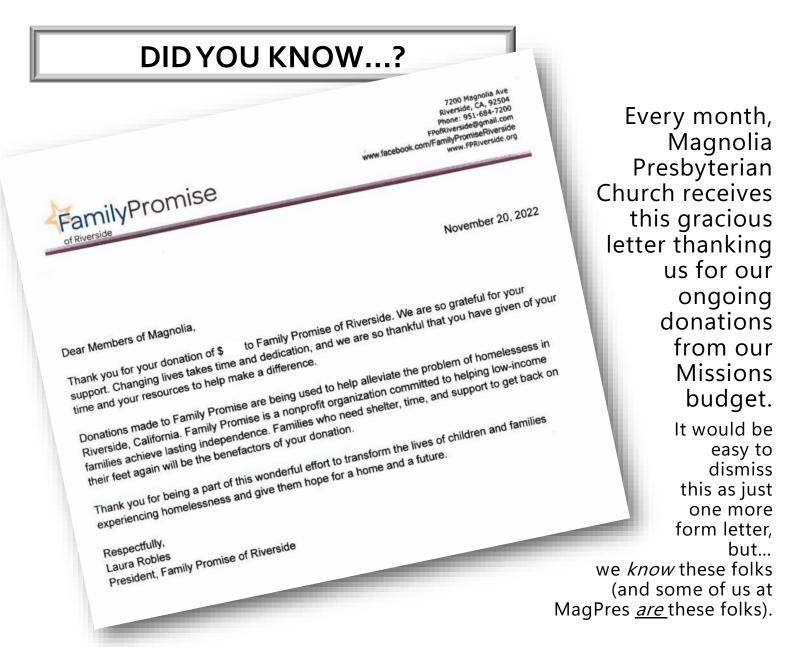
Please take advantage of these Giving Opportunities.

ONLINE: Visit our website at www.magpres.com/give

MOBILE: Text "magpres" to 77977

MOBILE: Download our church app through the Apple App Store or Google Play. Search for "Magnolia Presbyterian Church"

U.S. MAIL: Send check via US Mail to our address at 7200 Magnolia Avenue, Riverside, CA 92504



Family Promise of Riverside is one of over 200 affiliates of the National Family Promise organization spread across the United States. In its 35+ year history, Family Promise has helped over a million people stabilize the housing situation for their individuals families. And Family Promise has more than an 85% success rate in helping families into permanent housing.

Besides receiving a safe, temporary place to stay, Families who are guests of Family Promise host sites receive mentoring support for job hunting, financial management, and parenting skills. And even more remarkable is the rate at which children in stabilized homes stay enrolled in school and succeed in their studies.

Our own Family Promise of Riverside affiliate is preparing to open its doors on our MagPres campus in less than a week to address the unending flood of calls it receives for help. Please consider how you might become involved and join dozens of your church family members who give of their time and funds on a regular basis. Can you give a small monthly donation or a one-time donation? Does your business match your donations or offer corporate donations-in-kind of supplies it manufactures or distributes that Family Promise could use? Would you like to be a volunteer to help with occasional events? Can you bring a meal to a family being hosted at MagPres and perhaps dine with them for fellowship and community?

Whatever way you can be a part of this ecumenical and community-based support for families in our own neighborhoods would be welcomed. When you have a moment, surf on over to their website at https://www.fpriverside.org/ or visit their Facebook page at https://www.facebook.com/ FamilyPromiseRiverside/ to find out more. You can be a part of a successful effort and know that you helped a child and her family have a safe place to sleep at night.







:41

22nd 2oth 3oth 2oth 23rd 28th 29th 29th Makenzie Nelson Tammy Duncan Sherry Nettles Donna Nelson Laurie Ludwig Lowell Lacy Rick Allert Zach Ni 19th 15th 15th 17th 18th 15th 17th Michelle Laudermilk James Laudermilk Ryan Laudermilk Maddy Gipson January Birthdays Deanna Lacy Lance Alford Arlo Sachs January Anniversaries 14th 14th 14th 10th 13th 14th The Rev. Clarke Prescott The Rev. Chris Nettles George Robbins Wayne Andrew Steve McKee Leah French Dan Brooks 4th 4th 6th 8th 3rd 7th Cynthia Spring-Pearson Precious Mabena Flora Livingstone Margie Watson James Walters Krysten Stiffler **Susie Phillips**

January 2023 Prayer Calendar

17th

Mel & Rhonda Rehnke

Cherylyn & Thomas Thornton 15th

5th

Bill & Ruth Megenney

January 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Ε	Sat
-	2	6	4	2	9	
Pastor Claire Vacation			7pm - Boy Scouts, Troop	7pm - Choir Practice	Office Closed	9:30am - EEAC
	Office Closed	9:30am - Staff Meeting			2pm - Epiphany Open	1
10am - Deacon Door 10am - Worship Service	以序	6:30pm - FOM Cmte.			5pm - BEEAC	
10:15am - Children's	Hoppy	7pm - BaG Critte. 7pm - Mission Critte.			Spip hand	
Day	heari	Ç		6		**
10am - TWO-CAN Sunday	9:30am - Women's Bible	9:30am - Staff Meeting	7pm-Boy Scouts, Troop	7pm-Choir Practice	Office Closed	9:30am - EEAC
10am - Worship Service 10:15am - Children's 11:15am - Blessing Bags 6pm - Youth Group!		6pm - Worship Cmte 7pm - Stew_Fin Cmte			5pm-ŒEAC	4pm - Path of Life Meal
15	91	71	18	61	50	21
10am - Worship Service	Office Closed	9:30am - Staff Meeting	Session Materials Due 9:	7pm - Choir Practice	Office Closed	9:30am - EEAC
10:15am - Children's	Martin Luther King Jr. Day	7pm - Deacon Meeting	7pm - Boy Scouts, Troop		5pm-ŒEAC	
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
10am - Worship Service 10:15am - Children's 5pm - Rooted Kickoff 6pm - Youth Group!	UpLook Articles Due for 9:30am - Women's Bible	9:30am - Staff Meeting 7pm - Session Meeting	7pm - Boy Scouts, Troop	6:30pm - Rooted #2 7pm - Choir Practice	Office Closed 5pm - EEAC	9:30am - EEAC
29	30	31			•	
10am - Worship Service 10:15am - Children's 11:15am - 12:30pm - Rooted #1	9:30am - Women's Bible	9:30am - Staff Meeting	<u>ש</u>	igi		Event

SESSION HIGHLIGHTS



Please join me in thanking our Elders who are going off Session—Zach Gipson, Dick Kirby, and Jay Nicholson. Over the last three years, they have given their time, talent, and energy in their ministry as Elders. As we greet the new year, we welcome back David King for a second term; Heather Dickenson, and Laurie Ludwig to another term on Session after a few years off, and Jeanette Prescott for her first term. Read on to find out more about our three in-coming Elders:

Jeanette Prescott is serving her first term on Session and has been a member of Magnolia for 3 years. She is married to Clarke, and has three sons, Nick, Tom, and Robert. She is retired from 27 years as an elementary school teacher, and 7 years as a principal. Her hobbies include photography, reading, sailing/ boating, and cycling. Jeanette's favorite vacation destination is anywhere outdoors near water. If she had not been a teacher, she would have pursued a career as a photojournalist. She and Clarke used to own and fly private planes, but now they take it much slower and enjoy living part of the year on their boat on the East Coast. In September of 2021, they completed the Caminade de Santiago in Spain on their tandem bicycle! One of Jeanette's favorite books in the Bible is Philippians, especially Chapter 4. She says "Paul's exhortations to loving and righteous behavior, his encouragement, and his sharing of the peace has always been a comfort for me to read and re-read." She was attracted to Magnolia by the "warm welcome we received when we first attended, the encouragement/invitation to participate in a variety of ways, and the willingness of the pastors to nudge people out of their comfort zones." During the pandemic, she participated in the choir videos and she and Clarke helped with Two-Can Sunday collections. She answered the call to be an Elder because of "a need to 'give back' rather than 'sit back' and simply receive." She enjoyed "Rooted" as a way of getting to know people more deeply. It is Jeanette's hope that Magnolia continues to grow, not just in size, but in depth of commitment, in members' willingness to be honest and open with each other, and in the faithfulness to God's leading and direction.

Laurie Ludwig is serving her second term on Session and has been a member of Magnolia for 47 years!! She has been married for 38 years to Jeff, whom she met at Magnolia. She has two married daughters, and 5 grandchildren. She is a retired middle school teacher. Although she enjoyed teaching, she would have liked to be an entrepreneur. Laurie's hobbies include reading, gardening, camping, traveling, crocheting and crafts. Her absolute favorite vacation destination is Hawaii. She would love to see every state in the US, as well as travel the world. When asked what her favorite thing about MagPres is, she says "the people make the church." Over the course of her 47 years at Magnolia, she has been a Deacon, served on the Christian Education and Buildings and Grounds Committees and has taught Sunday School, Vacation Bible School, and youth group. Laurie answered the call to serve again as an Elder because "I prayed to God to use me: make me comfortable in the uncomfortable, and to fulfill His purpose." The very next day she got an invitation to serve on Session. Her hope for MagPres' future is "to help the church gather more congregants and children." She would like to see Magnolia be an outreach to the community to draw in more members and fill our new building to meet God's purpose, being good stewards of God's money and resources to get there.

Heather Dickenson has been a member of Magnolia for 18 years and is in her third 3-year term on Session, believing that "with God anything is possible. She has been a Sunday School teacher, youth group advisor, and vacation bible school volunteer for most of that time. She has served on the Christian Education Committee and is currently active on the Fellowship, Outreach, and Membership Committee. Heather enjoys her position as an elementary school librarian and enjoys reading, and walking or hiking anywhere with trees!

Melanie Nelson, Clerk of Session

STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE

January is always such a nice time to sit back and reflect on the holidays. After all the hustle and bustle fades away, the true treasures of the holidays remain to warm our hearts over and again through newly made memories. Time with family and friends, hugs and laughter, carols sung joyfully from the heart, the warm feelings that come from giving, and all that is good follows us into the new year.

The Stewardship and Finance Committee thanks each and every one of you, for the good with which you have touched our church in 2022. Your time, talents, and treasures truly brought us "Together for Joy," as we lived out our Stewardship theme in very real and tangible ways. We have created many special new memories with our church family this past year, and will hope to reach out even further into the community as our new place of worship begins taking form. What an exciting time!

With our new sanctuary will come new surroundings, new traditions, and hopefully some new faces with whom we can share new experiences in 2023. With Jesus leading us forward, we can go confidently to find out where our theme to "Think Differently" will take us.

May you enjoy peace and a closer walk with God as you create many more new and wonderful memories in the coming year.

The Stewardship and Finance Committee

CELEBRATING MEMBERSHIP MILESTONES for 2023

Ten years ago, I started a yearly recognition of our long-time members celebrating milestone years (in five year spans), starting at 40 or more. Please join me, as this tradition continues, in wishing these special members "well done good and faithful servant" for their priceless, loyal, and unwavering contributions to our Magnolia family.

--Melanie Nelson, Clerk of Session

Magnolia's Milestone Members for 2023

<u>Member</u>	<u>Milestone</u>	<u>Date of Membership</u>
Marge Ludwig	55 years	March 31, 1968
Lance Alford	45 years	April 12, 1978
JoAnn Alford	45 years	April 12, 1978
Barb Johnson	45 years	November 5 , 1978
Jane Peden	45 years	November 5, 1978
Kit Wilson	40 years	March 14, 1983
Dee Wilson	40 years	March 14, 1983
Jan McKee	40 years	May 22, 1983



REGULAR MEETINGS OF THE CHURCH



CHOIR REHEARSALS: Come lend your voice to the Chancel Choir! Rehearsals are Thursday nights at 7:00 p.m. in the Choir Room. Have Questions? Email John Wright at music@magpres.com

WOMEN'S MONDAY BIBLE STUDY: Monday mornings 9:30 a.m. in the Church Library (main office building). Join us for a relaxing time to delve into the previous Sunday's Scripture, pray, and fellowship.

SUNDAY SCHOOL: Sunday School for children in grades Kindergarten thru 5th grade is offered in-person & via Zoom during our 10am worship service. In-person will meet in the in the Fellowship Hall. If you would like to connect on zoom, please use this link:

Meeting ID: 259885602 Password: 7200

"Introducing your MagPres Church Varsity Choir: Starting, at lead tenor, number 42..."

STANDING ANNOUNCEMENTS





COMMUNION: First Sunday of every month, communion is served as a part of the worship service. For those worshipping via Zoom, feel free to gather your own "bread & cup" elements at home and join in the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper with the whole congregation.

TWO-CAN SUNDAY: On every 2nd Sunday of the month, we bring 2 Cans or Boxes of food to be donated to Lutheran Social Services of Southern California to help feed hungry neighbors in our community. In December, we <u>collected 125 food items</u>. *Keep up the good work(!)* as we continue loving our neighbors who are hungry! Our next Two-Can collection date will be January 8th.

DEACONS DOOR OFFERING: The first Sunday of every month, we collect the <u>DEACONS DOOR OFFERING</u>. This is a dedicated offering to help friends and family of MagPres members experiencing hardship. Your gift, large or small, is a gift of kindness.

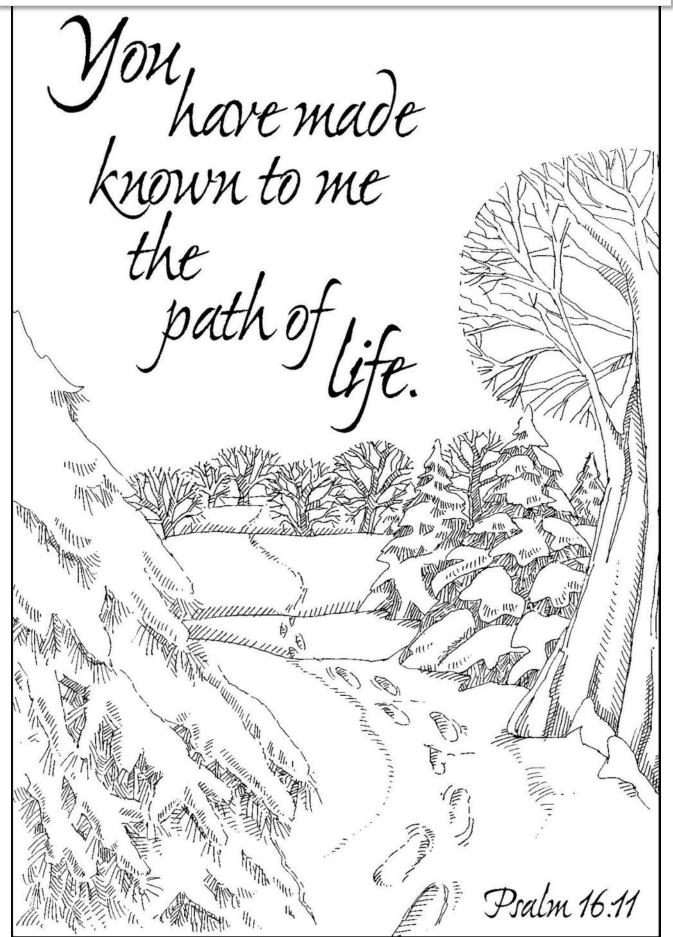
STATER BROS. GIFT CARDS: Gift cards in the amounts of \$25, \$50, and \$100 are available to purchase in the church office. Monday - Thursday, 8:30am - 3:00pm. Whether you are buying as a gift or to do your weekly grocery shopping, the church receives 5% of every sale! How nice--give twice!

CHURCH DIRECTORIES: Directories are available in the church office, or you can have one mailed to you. Instructions on downloading the app to our "Instant Church Directory" are on page 7 (great way to keep up with birthdays and anniversaries in our church family!)

As always - if your address, phone, or email changes, let us know with an email to church@magpres.com

DAILY DEVOTIONAL: Our Daily Bread quarterly booklets are available in the Worship Center foyer (on the Welcome Table) and in the church office. Pick one up for yourself and for a friend or stranger.

Pause for a moment and color in your own path through the woods, hear the crunch of snow beneath your boots, & smell the crisp air.







...making fully formed followers of Jesus Christ

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

7200 Magnolia Avenue Riverside, CA 92504-3829 Phone: 951-684-7200 Email: church@magpres.com Website: www.magpres.com Church Office Hours Mon-Thurs 8:30 am—3 pm Closed Friday



2023

Magnolia Presbyterian **Church Staff**

The Rev. Claire Schlegel Co-Pastor

The Rev. Paul Knopf Co-Pastor

Adrien Lowery Office Manager

James Walters Music Director/Organist

Saw Shein Contemporary Music Leader John Wright, Choral Director Cynthia Wright, Pianist Allison Robinson, Nursery Attendant

Jeff Ludwig, Treasurer [vacant] Youth Leader



Nothing is simple, not even simplification. Thus, in throwing away the mail, I exchange the complexity of duty for the simplicity of guilt.

--Wendell Berry